

Welcome! I'm Bob Spagnoletti, Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and it is my pleasure to bring this electronic message to OAG employees and to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

It's been many years since I have sat in a classroom – like the kids here at R.H. Terrell Junior High School learning the fundamentals of math, English, science and history. My teachers encouraged me to remember that education brings opportunity -- a message reinforced by a solid foundation of family, friends and community. I was lucky. So many of the District's children are faced with the roadblocks of poverty, crime and lack of opportunity, but OAG is doing its part to make a difference. Although OAG is the chief law office for the District, there are numerous community outreach efforts by attorneys and staff that affect the lives of those who live and work in our nation's capital.

A dedicated group of volunteers has propelled our partnership with Terrell Junior High School to new heights. Volunteers have generously donated their time and money to renovate the school's library and computer lab. Each Saturday, OAG employees tutor students taking part in the *Saturday Academy*. But it's not all work and no play for the kids at Terrell. Volunteers and students enjoy cultural enrichment activities, such as photography classes and tours of museums and the historic sites in the District.

The focus on family does not end with OAG's partnership with Terrell. Child Support Services is putting children and families first by participating on a regular basis in several community outreach initiatives intended to encourage parents to take an active role in their kids' lives. As a father, I understand that the most important job I will ever have is raising a child, and we can all use a helping hand every now and again. CSSD's Paternity and Community Outreach Section is working closely with community

organizations, such as the North Capital Collaborative, the East River Family Strengthening Collaborative and the DC Department of Human Services' Fatherhood Initiative to provide resources to families to ensure children receive the monetary, medical and the emotional support of BOTH parents.

Community outreach is not just reserved for those who work for my Office. Each of us can do our part, and I am no exception. One of my chief obligations as the legal officer of the District is to make certain that kids and their families stay safe. I travel around the District teaching teens the tools they need to have healthy, non-violent dating relationships; and teach kids of all ages to empower themselves online and avoid becoming a victim of predators lurking on the Internet.

Crime prevention starts at home and in our communities, and is one of the many aims of Neighborhood and Victim Services attorneys at OAG. In addition to assisting victims of violence, so-called Core Team attorneys in NVS represent each Ward in the District. They participate in weekly community meetings, and personally patrol neighborhoods identifying illegal rooming houses, illegal businesses, properties that are eyesores to the community and are attracting illegal activity, and most importantly, ID'ing residents in need of human services.

My office is also very much involved in supporting the economic development, affordable housing and community improvement projects in the District. Attorneys working in the Economic Development Section of OAG ushered the transfer of Camp Simms in Southeast D.C. on behalf of the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Camp Simms site went undeveloped for more than 25 years, and will

include residential and commercial developments – offering single family homes at affordable prices for families with moderate incomes.

I am so very proud to work with the hundreds of dedicated OAG employees who tirelessly give of themselves to help the residents of this great city. They prove every day that if each of us takes action, the many communities that make up the District of Columbia will thrive. My heartfelt thanks to each of you.

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